



## **Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Regulatory Services**

Date February 25, 2003

To Public Safety and Regulatory Services

Referral to Ways and Means

**Subject** Groundwork USA Grant

### **Recommendation**

The Department of Regulatory Services recommends that the Council accept the recommendation of the Groundwork Minneapolis Steering Committee to establish a Groundwork USA Trust in Minneapolis and accept the remaining \$90,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Park Service to assist in establishing this organization. By accepting the funds the City agrees to provide office space, one-quarter staff time of an environmental inspector, and \$25,000 for the first year of operation. It is further requested that these funds be allocated to the following Environmental Management account for payment of services:

fund/agy/org/revenue 0300-835-8396-3210

### **Previous Directives**

April 5, 2002 Resolution 267812 – accepting initial \$10,000 from \$100,000 grant to conduct feasibility study.

Prepared or Submitted by Marjorie Terrell, Environmental Inspector, 673-5441

Approved by John Bergquist, Assistant City Coordinator

Presenters in Committee Bill Anderson, Deputy Director, Environmental Services

Marjorie Terrell, Environmental Management

### **Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

☐ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.  
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

☐ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

☐ Action requires use of contingency or reserves

☒ Other financial impact (Explain): **EPA/NPS grant funds will be awarded to the City based on completion of tasks specified in the grant agreement, until the full \$90,000 has been awarded. In addition, as part of the grant agreement the City of Minneapolis will appropriate \$25,000 from CDBG in 2003 to assist with operating expenses. Both the grant and CDBG funds will be**

**appropriated to Environmental Management to cover startup costs for Groundwork Minneapolis.**

\_\_\_\_ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Community Impact** (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals

Comprehensive Plan

Zoning Code

Other

**Background/Supporting Information Attached:**

Groundwork is an international organization, begun in the UK, with 6 branches on the East Coast. The mission of Groundwork USA is to improve the physical environment through community projects utilizing residents, businesses, and other resources. Working with the Groundwork USA network, the US Environmental Protection Agency and National Park Service offered two \$100,000 grants to non-East Coast cities to establish Groundwork chapters.

In December 2001, a steering committee (comprised of Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee members, community representatives, Minneapolis Environmental Management staff, and National Park Service staff) submitted a Groundwork grant application. The idea proposed in the application was for an organization that would work with neighborhood and community groups wishing to convert brownfield and blighted properties to community-oriented space. The organization would fill gaps in services provided by existing non-profit organizations and government agencies, in such areas as identifying viable projects and partners, grant writing assistance, and project management.

Minneapolis was selected to receive this grant funding and the initial allocation of \$10,000 was spent to conduct the attached feasibility study. It is the recommendation of the steering committee that Groundwork Minneapolis be formed. Groundwork Minneapolis will be housed for at least the first year with the Environmental Services Department. In addition to office space, and one-quarter staff time of an environmental inspector, the City of Minneapolis will provide Groundwork Minneapolis with \$25,000 in operating expenses for the first year.

**Additional Information Attached:**

USA EPA/NPS Groundwork Cooperative Agreement

Groundwork Minneapolis Steering Committee Feasibility Study